

GREEN SHEET

Meeting dates: July 10-11, 2009 Commission Meeting

Agenda item #9: Columbia River Commercial & Tribal Fishing Regulations
—Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Staff Contact: Cindy LeFleur, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, Intergovernmental Resource Management Program

Presenter(s): Cindy LeFleur, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, Intergovernmental Resource Management Program

Background:

Fisheries in the Columbia River are managed jointly with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and consistent with the conservation principles established within the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement and the associated Biological Opinion. The goals of the fishery managers are to have concurrent regulations in joint Columbia River waters, to have regulations that are easily understood by the fishers, and rules that can be enforced by our officers. The proposed rule changes that are presented here are intended to change the measurement criteria for sturgeon.

WAC 220-32-057 – Season – Sturgeon. Changes the measurement criteria for sturgeon to fork length instead of total length for the Columbia River treaty Indian fishery. The tribes have agreed to this change and are currently using the new length for treaty Indian fisheries in the Columbia River.

WAC 220-20-020 – General provisions – Lawful and unlawful acts – Food fish other than salmon. Changes the measurement criteria for sturgeon to fork length instead of a total length measurement for non-Indian fisheries. This rule was adopted by the Columbia River Compact and has been implemented for the sport fishery beginning in January 2009. In the commercial fishery this rule has been implemented on an emergency basis.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Changes to two existing rules regarding how sturgeon are measured for non-Indian commercial and treaty Indian fisheries.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Package of proposed regulation changes has been shared with the Columbia River commercial and recreational advisor groups. The sturgeon fork length change has already been through a public process prior to adoption in the sport fishery. The commercial fishing industry has been in support of this regulation for some time.

Action requested:

Briefing and public hearing only. Adoption requested at August 6, 7, and 8, 2009 meeting in Colville or during conference call being held on August 21.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

The results of the August commission meeting and decision will be communicated to the advisor groups. Results will be shared with the tribal co-managers for the tribal regulations.

Form revised 10/16/2008 - sdy